(d) whether any complaints about implementation of SSA have been received from States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE-DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The third Joint Review Mission (JRM) for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), reviewed the programme on the basis of visits to ten States in January, 2006.

The Mission's findings included an assessment that the programme is on track, that it has successfully reduced the number of children who were out of school by enhancing enrolment and retention and also that meaningful steps have been undertaken for improvement of quality of elementary education.

The Mission emphasized continued focus on education of girls, children from educationally and socially disadvantaged sections of society and children with special needs; review teacher training programmes and; strengthen internal audit mechanisms. SSA implementation has addressed these issues, subsequently.

(d) and (e) Recently, the School Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that an amount of Rs.14,98,03,378/- under District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) had been diverted to unauthorized bank accounts by the Assistant Accounts Officer of the State Project Office. The State Government has taken strict action in instituting a judicial enquiry; undertaking investigation by the State CID and the suspension of three accounts officials alongwith transfer of another three accounts personnel from the State Project Office. The Government of India has asked the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to carry out a special audit of accounts pertaining to the DPEP and SSA for the period 2000-01 till date in Andhra Pradesh.

Criteria for deemed universities

†*294. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for obtaining the status of deemed university;

(b) the number of autonomous colleges in the country and how many of them fulfil the criteria to obtain the status of deemed university;

(c) whether the proposal to give the status of deemed university to the autonomous college of Chhindwara is under consideration; and

(d) by when the decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government is empowered by the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to notify an institution of higher- education, other than a University, as Deemed to be a University, on the advice of the UGC. The UGC has laid down guidelines for consideration of proposals for declaring an

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

institution as deemed to be a university. Broadly, the guidelines of the UGC are as given below:

(i) The institutions should generally be:

- engaged in teaching programmes and research, which are innovative, and of a very high academic standard;
- capable of further enriching the University system;
- competent to undertake application-oriented programmes in emerging areas of knowledge;
- in existence for ten years or more; however, those institutions which impart education in the emerging areas with promise of excellence can be considered for a provisional status under '*de-novo*' category even without this condition;
- financially sound, and also create a corpus fund as prescribed by the UGC;
- recognized by the Statutory Councils like the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), ,Indian Nursing Council (INC), Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH), etc., as the case. may be, if it is offering degree/diploma in professional subjects.

(ii) Usually, institutions affiliated to universities and which are offering only conventional degree programmes leading to B.A./B.Com./B.Sc. or M.A./M. Com./M.Sc., will not be considered for grant of 'Deemed to be University' status. However, such an institution, which is also offering innovative programmes, having adequate resources, might be considered for recognition as 'Deemed-to-be-University';

(iii) Institutions which are imparting routine type of instruction to full-time students or offering training programmes for in-service personnel, unless of high quality, would, generally, not qualify for recognition;

(iv) Outstanding research institutions specialising in Social Sciences, Sciences and Technology and conducting programmes leading to Masters and research degrees in specialized areas can be considered for 'Deemed-to-be-University' for their research degrees and highly specialized programmes at Master's level.

(b) As per the information made available by the UGC, there are, presently, 272 autonomous colleges functioning under various universities in the country. The suitability of autonomous colleges to qualify as 'deemed-to-be-university' can only be assessed on a case to case basis, as and when each autonomous college applies for declaration as an institution under deemed to be university category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.